

**REMARKS**

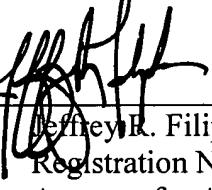
Prior to an examination of the present application, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Preliminary Amendment.

By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-13 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter therein and new claims 14-26 have been added.

Respectfully submitted,

Katsuyuki ARIMOTO et al.

By

  
Jeffrey R. Filipek  
Registration No. 41,471  
Attorney for Applicants

JRF/fs  
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021  
Telephone (202) 721-8200  
Facsimile (202) 721-8250  
February 3, 2006